

Conservation/UW-EX Education Committee
November 13, 2014
Minutes

Committee members present: Chairman Tom Rudolph, Bob Mott, Jim Intrepidi, Robb Jensen, and Scott Holewinski. Absent: Clint Zimbeck.

Others present: Tim Brown, Jean Hansen, Michele Sadauskas, Fred Heider, Lynn Feldman, Nancy Gehrig, Merry Lehner.

Call to order: The meeting was called to order by Chairman Rudolph at 1:30 p.m. noting the meeting has been properly posted and the facility is handicap accessible.

Approve Agenda: Motion by Jensen/Mott to approve today's agenda with the order of the items at the Chair's discretion. All ayes; motion carried.

Date(s) of future meetings:

December 8, 2014	1:30 p.m.	Extension meeting room
January 12, 2015	1:30 p.m.	Extension meeting room

DRAFT

Approve Minutes: Motion by Jensen/Holewinski to approve the minutes of 10/20/14. All ayes; motion was carried.

Land & Water Conservation Department Long-Range Plan

Jean Hansen presented Resource Management Plan 2012-2016 Work Plan. Yellow shaded items on the report are plans currently being worked on and into 2015. Blue designates long term plans. Annual report, in spring of the year, shows items that have been completed.

Goal 1 Slow the spread of invasive species. Short discussion on EAB followed.

Goal 2 Protect shoreline areas. No duplication of services; Planning and Zoning looks at construction issues, but Land and Water is more from a conservation aspect.

Goal 3 Restore Shorelands.

Goal 4 Reduce sources of nonpoint source water pollution.

Goal 5 Educate the public about groundwater quality.

Goal 6 Protect the lake ecosystems from recreational pressure degradation.

Goal 7 Improve forest silviculture for multiple uses.

Goal 8 Promote on-line resource information distribution.

Goal 9 Minimize impacts on our natural resources from mining activities.

Goal 10 Reduce wildlife conflicts.

All appreciate the work being done on this plan. Plan has to be submitted by December 15, 2014. Requested that an additional column showing tasks accomplished be added to the report. A motion made by Jensen/Holewinski to accept the Oneida County Land and Water Resource Plan Long Range Plan through 2016. All ayes; motion carried.

Repurpose request for purchase of a canoe

Administration approved money for purchase of this canoe; it has been paid for, so committee's question has been addressed.

Farmland Preservation Plan Final Draft

Fred Heider presented an updated draft of the Farmland Preservation Plan for review by the CUW Committee. Next step is to have a public hearing, which is scheduled for December 18, 2014. Each town will be mailed a notice of the Public Hearing. Draft plans will be made available on-line for public review.

Updates were made to reflect the two main agricultural enterprises in Oneida County are growing potatoes and cranberries. Potato production is trended to continue in Town of Stella. Potato development is supported by the Rhinelander Agricultural Research Station, and two commercial seed potato farms. Related potato production industries are available in Rhinelander and Stella.

Cranberries are grown in Newbold, Three Lakes, Stark and other areas which total of 23 farms in the county. Regulation of water supply and permits continue to be a concern for the future. These restrictions are an issue for large scale farm owners. It also affects the small farm wells. Inclusion of organic and hobby farms have increased in area recently.

The post of the announcement of updated draft to newspapers must be 30 days in advance, so it will be submitted promptly.

Motion to approve the draft with changes and approve the public hearing date of December 18th, 2014, was made by Jensen/Intrepid. All ayes; motion carried.

Heider, Gehrig, and Feldman were dismissed at 2:45PM.

DRAFT

Announcement of the Strategic Planning Meeting for the 2015 Oneida County Fair

Nancy Gehrig was dismissed early for another engagement and could not present the Strategic Planning Meeting details. The meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, November 18th, 2014 at 6:00PM at the Quality Inn in Rhinelander.

Gehrig previously presented Chairman Rudolph a copy of the DATCP County and District Fairs Visitation/Inspection Report on the 2014 Fair. He stated that for the conditions that we have, we are doing a pretty good job with the fair. It was discussed that the greatest need is that more volunteers are needed to run the fair. There are two levels to volunteering. One consists of all the people that physically work at the fair, the second is a core group of people that work behind the scenes with the Fair Committee that make things happen. The committee stated that the County Board Budget Hearing held Wednesday, November 12, 2014, restored the money to the Fair. It was suggested that community service organizations such as Rotary, Lions Club could possibly contribute volunteer hours to the fair as a possible way of lending more aid.

LWCD Presentation

Jean Hansen presented Emerald Ash Borer information for Oneida County officials. A confirmed identification was found in a trap in Rhinelander by DATCP in October. It was discovered in trees near James William Middle School. As such, it places the county under quarantine against moving wood or wood products. It most likely was brought to the county through transport of infested firewood. It can enter into the state with lumber, shipping pallets, nursery stock plants, and produce.

The life stages of the Emerald Ash Borer (EAB) were discussed. Larvae do the most damage to the tree, feeding on xylem. It takes 2-4 yrs. to kill a tree. It has known natural enemies.

Ash Trees replaced American Elms as street trees, so now Rhinelander will have to replace Ash trees with a different species. Awareness is the best way of prevention. Oneida County is the second county in northern Wisconsin to be placed under quarantine, along with Douglas County. LWCD is involved along with DNR, City, WHIP, Oneida County Forest Department, and UWEX, as well as classroom education to take action in the community. If you see it; take pictures and send it to the

website www.emeraldashborer.wi.gov or capture a specimen and send to LWC or the DNR. An informational session is scheduled for Monday, November 17, 2014 at James Williams Middle School.

Revisit AIS Grant Resolution-Michele Sadauskas:

The resolution was set to go but the state informed them that one additional sentence had to be added to the format. That sentence says: "and submit reimbursement claims along with necessary supporting documentation within 6 months". They took the old resolution and will hold it until January and will assign a new resolution number. A move to approve the inclusion of this sentence was made by Mott/Jensen. Motion approved; all ayes.

Staffing Update

A request to continue Fall/Winter hours for AIS LTE Position under Michele Sadauskas is up for approval. The LTE under Jean Hansen will use all allotted money through the end of the year. Additional hours for Hansen's LTE will be given from Sadauskas' LTE with grant money. There will still be additional hours leftover that Sadauskas will use for her LTE to work six weekends at ice fishing tournaments in January and February. This has been discussed with LRES and so this is an update to the already approved staffing motion from last Committee Meeting. They will work thru LRES if additional hours are needed, but the plan will work fine as described above.

Consent Agenda Items:

Motion made to approve consent agenda items by Holewinski/Jensen. All ayes; motion carried.

Agency reports:

Lake Districts: Bear Lake had their meeting and Jensen will request the minutes. No new reports on Nokomis, Mid Lake, or Thunder Lake. Horsehead Lake is meeting later today (11/13/14) to follow up on the stocking of crappies and blue gills.

USDA, NRCS: No report.

OCEDC: Brown announced that they won the grant application from the Public service Commission to do the broadband project in the Northwestern part of the county. This is the technology needed to provide countywide coverage. This will give the chance to see if this coverage will work.

FSA: Jean Hansen received an application for 2014 FSA county committee election ballot in the mail. Motion made by Jensen/Mott that if Zimbeck is still interested in this position and agrees to more regular meeting attendance, the committee will re-elect if Zimbeck. If he is not interested they will vote for the other person. All ayes; motion carried.

LWCB: Next meeting is Dec 2, 2014 in Madison; most likely Rudolph's last meeting. No agenda yet but sure there will be a number of land-water resource management plans to review, update, and approve.

WI Land+Water: Formerly WLWCA. Rudolph is not board anymore. He represents WI NACD, so will still receive information updates, so will include on the agenda for now.

RC&D: State Association meeting took place two weeks ago. There is concern over support of these councils in the state. Glacier Land RC&D Council hired a management consultant. There are many requests for things coming in. Mott inquired on the bike proposal, as Joel Knutson was not at last meeting to give update, regarding grants available to Oneida County. Approval must occur before December 1st, 2014. Tim Brown mentioned there are several small groups in county all working on same thing but no collaboration. Brown is in process of working on getting all of the groups together at the same meeting so something can be accomplished. Knutson is proposing a grant through Lumberjack RC&D to have him as a coordinator of this effort.

WACEC: Bob Mott was interviewed today. He should hear back mid-December for this visit to Washington DC for a leadership conference. Would meet with Congressman Duffy to lobby for UW Extension and all the things the Extension does. The conference is in April.

Update on Regional Planning Commission Study: (Agenda Item 13)

Planning commission met with Feldman and Brown November 12th. Documents were sent and reviewed in advance about plans of work and staffing levels historically. A discussion on what sort of work the department does and how they determine which work is performed was presented. An outline of each staff member's duties was reviewed. The interviewers indicated that they are unclear what the final product the LRES is expecting from them. They will meet with LRES in December to talk more specifically about what will be reported. Final results are targeted for mid-January. Jean Hansen also met with them yesterday and reported on department functions as well. It was a good discussion.

The committee had further discussion on what the expectations are of the study and what direction will be taken as a result. It is unclear what the LRES wants to know from the study. The committee concluded that some clarification is needed. A memo shall be drafted to LRES inquiring what the format of the study is and its purpose. Tom Rudolph will approve final memo and submit it to LRES. It was agreed to invite Lisa Charbarneau to December 8th meeting.

Jean excused 4:20

2015 UW Extension Long-Range Plan Update

Brown presented long-range plan that is submitted to the county annually. The plan consists of seven elements that the county looks for each year. It is not the full plan document. The departmental plan outlines the three agents with current, short term to long term goals to match up with the seven elements. They do focus on numbers, but this report reflects what county is looking for. This is completed once a year and goes with guiding documents of more detail. Motion Made by Jensen/Mott to approve the UW Extension long-range plan update. All ayes; motion carried.

Office Space/Air Quality: The wall construction was supposed to be completed last month. The masonry bricks are here and the area is cleared, but bricks have not been moved into the building. New UW-Extension signs have been ordered as discussed during line item transfers. Signs will be placed under the Welcome to the Airport sign outside.

Public comment: County Government workshop went well last night. Response was positive.

Items for next agenda: Recap on 2014 Fair final report from last meeting and update on budget. Include LRES update.

Adjournment: Motion by Jensen/Intrepid to adjourn at 4:30 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Merry J. Lehner, Recording Secretary

Thomas Rudolph, Committee Chair